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VS

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/536,613	05/25/2005	Guo-Wei Qin	SERVIER 461 PCT	2275
25666	7590	02/07/2008	EXAMINER	
THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE SEVENTH FLOOR, KALAMAZOO BUILDING 107 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE KALAMAZOO, MI 49007			AULAKH, CHARANJIT	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1625		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		02/07/2008	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/536,613	QIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Charanjit S. Aulakh	1625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 31-56,59 and 61-63 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 55,56,59 and 62 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 31-33,36,38-41,44,52,54 and 63 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 34,35,37,42-51,53 and 61 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/ are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/14/08.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. According to paper filed on Jan. 14, 2008, the applicants have filed a RCE.
2. It is of note that claim 60 was canceled, claims 31 and 55 were amended and furthermore, a new claim 63 was added by an examiner's amendment on Oct. 11, 2007.
3. Claims 31-56, 59 and 61-63 are now pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 31-33, 36, 39, 41, 44, 54 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iijima (J. Med. Chem. , cited on applicant's form 1449).
Iijima discloses synthesis and antinociceptive activity of 7-methoxycodeine. The compounds 1 and 3 (see scheme 1 on page 1321) disclosed by Iijima anticipate the instant claims when R1 represents a methyl group, R2 represents H, X represents bromine and both R3 and R4 as well as R5 and R6 together form oxo or R3 and R4 together form an oxo group while R6 represents an alkoxy group in the instant compounds of formula (I).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

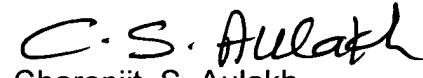
1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 31-33, 36, 38, 40, 41, 44, 52 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima (*J. Med. Chem.* , cited on applicant's form 1449). Iijima discloses synthesis and antinociceptive activity of 7-methoxycodeine. The compounds 1, 2 and 3 (see scheme 1 on page 1321) disclosed by Iijima meet all the limitations of instant claims when R1 represents a methyl group and R2 represents H in the instant compounds of formula (I) except that variable X represents bromine instead of fluorine, chlorine or iodine. However, bromine, chlorine, fluorine and iodine belong to the same class of halogens. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to prepare the instant compounds by replacing one halogen (bromine) for instant variable X in the compounds of Iijima with another halogen (such as chlorine, fluorine or iodine) without affecting their utility of antinociceptive activity with reasonable expectation of success.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charanjit S. Aulakh whose telephone number is (571)272-0678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Andres can be reached on (571)272-0867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Charanjit S. Aulakh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1625